

Tamil Theni FeTNA Competition Rules

2024

Last updated on Oct 10, 2024

Changes since 2023

- None

Words & Questions

Published Words

For each year, a set of words for each competition format (Theni 1, 2, 3, 4) will be published. These are meant to provide the base for refreshing and improving vocabulary skills. These words will also provide a reference to the categories and difficult levels expected in the competition.

Questions

Regional competition questions will be from the Published word list, except for tiebreaker questions.

Zonal and Final competition will have questions from outside the published list as well.

Words and related questions will increase in difficulty moving from Regional, Zonal, Semi to Finals.

Easy Questions

Words commonly used in US households and taught in US Tamil schools.

Regular Tamil speaking, reading and writing should prepare contestants for these questions.

Medium Questions

Words commonly used in Tamil TV programs, recent movies, US Tamil Sangam stage speeches.

Contestants will need to be readers of short Tamil stories, avid watchers of Tamil movies, entertainment shows, understands written grammar and able to follow formal Tamil speeches.

Hard Questions

Words commonly referenced in Tamil News, media, interviews, story books, popular literature works, words common with elders in the household.

Preparing using published words and related words in those categories should help prepare for these questions. Discussing uncommon words in Tamil with friends and family will help improve vocab for this level. Frequent listening to formal news, interviews and some literary books will provide familiarity to these difficult words.

Very Hard Questions

Words referenced in modern technical Tamil usage and from old literature and poems.

Curiosity to find / form Tamil words for both new age English words and Sangam words will be required to perform well to understand these words.

Scoring Criteria

1. THENI – 1 அரும்பு

Look at the picture and listen to the corresponding English word (as said by the conductor) and say the equivalent Tamil word.

1.1. Points will be awarded if all below conditions are met

1.1.1. Answer was given within the allotted time

1.1.2. At least one of the team contestant gave the correct answer

1.1.3. Answer conveys the meaning of the English word

1.2. Colloquial and local variation of the words will be permitted

2. THENI – 2 மலர்கள்

Translate the given English sentence to Tamil.

2.1. Points will be awarded if all below conditions are met

2.1.1. Answer was given within the allotted time

2.1.2. Only one of the team member gave the full translation

Team members may consult, but only one person should say the answer. Only complete translation (not partial words) will be accepted. If more than one translation was attempted, only the last translation will be accepted (not any partial words after the sentence).

2.2. Colloquial translation will be considered

2.3. Team members may consult, but only one person must say the full sentence

2.4. For published words, exact translation is required

If the published word list includes மண்டபம் (), அரங்கம் (), மேடை (), then exact translation is expected

2.5. For unpublished words, translations that convey common understanding may be accepted; Judges' decision will be final

If it is not a published word, for e.g., "Entrance", then either வாசல் (or) நுழைவாயில் may be considered by the judges.

Irrespective of choice of word, the translated sentence should convey the correct meaning of the English sentence. For e.g., Dog jumped into the pond - நாய் குளத்தில் (குட்டையில்) குதித்தது.

2.6. Shortened translation will be accommodated as long as the meaning is understood in a normal household practice

E.g., எனக்கு பால் வேண்டும் Vs. பால் வேணும் conveys the same implied meaning

2.7. Simple Grammar (ex Tense) will be strictly evaluated

For 'Will go to India', இந்தியாக்கு போவேன் and இந்தியாக்கு போனேன் are not the same.

2.8. Vetrumai Urubu (வேற்றுமை உருபு) will be evaluated

E.g., In 'Don't trust her' - அவளை is expected and not just அவள்

For 'He read his book', அவன் புத்தகம் படித்தான் is incorrect, அவன் அவனுடைய புத்தகத்தை படித்தான் is the correct translation

3. THENI – 3 கனிகள்

Look at the pictures and listen to the corresponding English words (as said by the conductor) and form a Tamil sentence that contains all the pictures.

3.1. Points will be awarded if all below conditions are met

3.1.1. Answer was given within the allotted time

3.1.2. At least one of the team contestant gave the correct answer

3.1.3. All English words are properly translated

3.2. Colloquial and local variation of the words will be permitted

3.3. Sentence must not contain any English words

3.4. Sentence need not be fully formed

For 'earrings and ear' - தோடு காதுல இருக்கு will be accepted

3.5. Grammar will not be strictly evaluated as long as the sentence can be understood and the pictures are represented in the translation

3.6. Repetitive sentence formation conveying lack of understanding of the word may not be awarded points

Multiple use of 'பிடிக்கும்' for questions with fruits, 'நிறத்தில் இருக்கும்' for questions with colors

4. THENI – 4 விதைகள்

Translate and write the given English sentence in Tamil.

4.1. Points will be awarded if all below conditions are met

4.1.1. Answer was written and shown to the judge within the allotted time

4.1.2. Tamil letters are clear (including dots for consonants)

4.1.3. Only one of answer was shown to the judge

Team members may consult and write separately, but only one final answer must be shown. Only complete translation (not partial words) will be accepted. If some part of the sentence (words) are written out of line but a clear arrow shows where it should go, and some words are clearly stricken out, Judges may use discretion to understand the intent and context in their evaluation.

4.2. Colloquial translation will be considered as long as

4.2.1. Key words are translated accurately

4.2.2. Meaning clearly reflects the intent of the English sentence

4.3. Simple Grammar (ex Tense) will be strictly evaluated

For 'Will go to India', இந்தியாக்கு போவேன் and இந்தியாக்கு போனேன் are not the same.

4.4. Vetrumai Urubu (வேற்றுமை உருபு) will be evaluated

E.g., In 'Don't trust her' - அவளை is expected and not just அவள்

For 'He read his book', அவன் புத்தகம் படித்தான் is incorrect, அவன் அவனுடைய புத்தகத்தை படித்தான் is the correct translation

4.5. Ottrezhththu (ஒற்றெழுத்து/மெய்யெழுத்து) will not be strictly evaluated

The rules for this are complex, and younger students are not likely to be taught this in their early grades. Hence, we will not be strictly evaluating this. However, the correct answer and Judge's explanation can be provided as a learning opportunity for the participants.

4.6. The answers could be implicitly translated

For e.g.,

- 'He wanted to buy'
 - வாங்க நினைத்தான்
 - (அவன்) வாங்க நினைத்தான்
- 'He came down'
 - (அவன்) கீழே இறங்கி வந்தான்
 - இறங்கி வந்தான்
 - கீழே வந்தான்
- 'He came down the stairs'
 - (அவன்) படிக்கட்டுகளில் இருந்து இறங்கினான்
 - (அவன்) படிக்கட்டுகளில் இருந்து (கீழே) இறங்கி வந்தான்
 - (அவன்) படிக்கட்டுகளில் இருந்து கீழே வந்தான்

5. THENI – 5 செடிகள்

Identify the given key word using clue words.

5.1. Points will be awarded if all below conditions are met

5.1.1. The reference to the word being identified (typically a number between 1 and 5) was called out before attempting to identify the word

5.1.2. No more than 3 clue words were given for a key word

5.1.3. Exact word was identified within the allotted time

5.1.4. Clue words meet all conditions, including number of clue words

5.1.5. Was able to provide meaning (by forming a sentence) of the key word and clue words if asked

5.1.6. No other Tamil words were said by either contestant other than the clue words and the key word

5.1.7. No hand/body gestures were used by the contestants

5.2. Identified key words must be exact as published

தங்கச்சி not accepted for **தங்கை**

5.3. Judges may randomly test a team for their understanding of the clue word or key word and how the clues relate to the key word

It is important that contestants are able to explain the meaning of the clue and key words

5.4. Pronunciation of the key word must be proper (especially **ழ**)

Contestants are encouraged to practice pronunciation of the published words to make sure there is no confusion on the identified word

E.g., Must be properly pronounced

- **பழம்** vs. **பலம்**

E.g., May be accepted

- பள்ளி / பல்லி
- அவல் / அவள்

5.5. Contestants can use simple English cue words to exchange key information; judges will warn / disqualify if they sense misuse

E.g., Correct, Next, Skip, Word 1, Word 2, Go back – can be used by the contestants to communicate the game intent to their partner

5.6. New clue can only be given after the other contestant says something (a cue or key word)

5.7. Team can skip to next word without completing all allotted clues and return back to that key word to continue with remaining clues

While judges will keep count of the clues given for a given word, it is contestants responsibility to keep to ensure no additional clue words are given. Judges will not warn / prompt the teams during their allotted time.

5.8. Clue words - Allowed

5.8.1. Must be commonly used words or from the reference dictionary

5.8.2. Must be related to the key word

It is also important for contestants to know how the clue word is related to the key word. For E.g. குறும்பு for குரங்கு is because Monkeys are commonly referenced in Tamil stories as mischievous.

Explanation context must be relatable to a broader Tamil speaking audience in North America. For E.g., using popular Harry Potter / Witch reference, மந்திரம் + பறந்தான் can be used for துடைப்பம் because common witch stories do convey brooms as magical and also used to fly. However, திருமணம் + பாடகர் for கப்பல் because a famous singer the contestants (and their regional group) knew about had their wedding in a ship, is not acceptable.

5.8.3. Synonym (தந்தை for அப்பா)

5.8.4. Antonym (அத்தை for மாமா)

5.8.5. Action verbs (ஓடு for அவசரம்)

5.8.6. Common similes (குரங்கு for குறும்பு) can be given as clues

5.8.7. Proper Single, Non-colloquial Tamil words

5.8.8. Proper nouns may be rarely used and must be commonly associated with the key word

E.g., சிவாஜி for நடிப்பு is allowed, but மாலதி for நடிப்பு is not allowed

Use of more than 2 proper names in a round (typically 25 words) will be disqualified. Minimize proper nouns and only use them if it helps students enrich understanding of the key word when they use it in public speaking.

5.9. Clue words - Not Allowed

5.9.1. Part of the key word that on its own has a meaning

பெரியப்பா as a clue for பெரியம்மா is not allowed

5.9.2. Singular/plural (மலர் for மலர்கள் not allowed)

5.9.3. Rhyming words that is doesn't meet definition of an allowed word (கட்டி for முட்டி not allowed)

5.9.4. Multiple words as clue – If given, will be treated as multiple clues, that goes towards total clue count
